

I Claim:

1. A toy balloon valve adapter for enabling an existing balloon valve to mate sealingly with different size balloons, the toy balloon valve adapter comprising:

(a) a continuous wall defining a balloon neck supporting member having a perimeter relatively different in size from a perimeter of a balloon neck supporting valve head of a toy balloon valve, said balloon neck supporting member including a first end and a second end, one of said first end and said second end being a relatively larger end and the other being a relatively smaller end;

(b) a cavity defined by said continuous wall and located between said first end and said second end for receiving and containing a valve head of the toy balloon valve;

(c) a first opening into said cavity through said relatively larger end for receiving said valve head of said toy balloon valve into said cavity; and

(d) a second opening through said relatively smaller end for allowing an inflation fluid to flow through said toy balloon valve into a supported balloon without leaking.

2. The toy balloon valve adapter of Claim 1, wherein said relatively larger end is larger than said valve head

3. The toy balloon valve adapter of Claim 1, wherein said relatively larger end has a generally circular shape.

4. The toy balloon valve adapter of Claim 1, wherein said continuous wall includes plural flange areas between said first end and said second end for receiving and sealing against a neck of a supported toy balloon.

5. The toy balloon valve adapter of Claim 1, wherein said second opening through said relatively smaller end is sized to fit over and seal against a stem portion of a toy balloon valve.
6. The toy balloon valve adapter of Claim 1, wherein said relatively larger end has an oval shape.
7. The toy balloon valve adapter of Claim 1, wherein said continuous wall is made of an elastic material.
8. The toy balloon valve adapter of Claim 1, wherein said relatively larger end is sized to fit upside down over a valve head of a toy balloon valve, and said relatively smaller end is sized to fit into and seal against the inner surface of a neck of a toy balloon being supported.
9. The toy balloon valve adapter of Claim 1, wherein said relatively larger end is sized to fit and seal the necks of 14 inch to 20 inch large balloons.
10. The toy balloon valve adapter of Claim 1, wherein said continuous wall includes a balloon neck sealing rim at said first end.
11. The toy balloon valve adapter of Claim 4, wherein said plural flange areas have relatively different size diameters.
12. The toy balloon valve adapter of Claim 4, wherein said plural flange areas are continuous from one end to the other.

13. The toy balloon valve adapter of Claim 4, wherein each of said plural flange areas is tapered from said relatively larger end towards said relatively smaller end.

14. The toy balloon valve adapter of Claim 5, wherein said relatively larger end includes a rim for fitting into and sealing against the inner surface of a neck of a toy balloon being supported.

15. The toy balloon valve adapter of Claim 6, wherein said oval relatively larger end has an axis ratio of at least 1:1.25 and less than 1:2.5 for making it considerably easier to stretch and install the neck of a balloon onto the adapter while maintaining an effective seal with the balloon.

16. A tethered toy balloon assembly comprising:

(a) a toy balloon;

(b) a balloon valve for allowing and controlling inflation fluid into said toy balloon, said balloon valve including a valve stem and a balloon neck supporting valve head;

(c) a balloon valve adapter for mounting over said balloon valve and for enabling an existing balloon valve to mate sealingly with different size balloons, the toy balloon valve adapter comprising:

(i) a continuous wall defining a balloon neck supporting member having a perimeter relatively different in size from a perimeter of said balloon neck supporting valve head of said toy balloon valve, said balloon neck supporting member including a first end and a second end, one of said first end and said second end being a relatively larger end and the other a relatively smaller end;

(ii) a cavity defined by said continuous wall and located between said first end and said second end for receiving and containing said valve head of a toy balloon valve;

(iii) a first opening into said cavity through said relatively larger end for receiving said valve head of said toy balloon valve into said cavity; and

(iv) a second opening through said relatively smaller end for allowing an inflation fluid to flow through said toy balloon valve into a supported balloon without leaking;

(d) a tether support device having a generally cylindrical wall defining an outer surface and an inner bore including an inner surface for frictionally mounting over said valve stem of said toy balloon valve, and plural slots opening from said outer surface into said inner bore for forming various different paths to thread a lead end of a tether; and

(e) a tether threaded through at least one of plural slots of said tether support device for mounting over said valve stem of said toy balloon valve and for impinging said threaded lead end against said inner surface of said inner bore.

17. A toy balloon tether support device comprising:

(a) a generally cylindrical wall defining an outer surface and an inner bore including an inner surface for frictionally mounting over a valve stem of a toy balloon valve,

(b) plural slots opening from said outer surface into said inner bore for forming various different paths to thread a lead end of a tether; and

(c) means within each of said plural slots for receiving and locking a portion of said threaded lead end of said tether, thereby effectively securing said tether to said support device by locking said portion within said means and impinging said threaded end by inserting said inner bore over said valve stem of said toy balloon valve.

18. The toy balloon tether support device of Claim 12, including a flange portion connected to said cylindrical wall.

19. The toy balloon tether support device of Claim 12, wherein said plural slots comprise an odd number of such slots.

20. The toy balloon tether support device of Claim 12, wherein said wall is made of a plastic material.

21. A toy balloon valve adapter for enabling an existing balloon valve to mate sealingly with different size balloons, the toy balloon valve adapter comprising:

(a) a continuous wall defining a balloon neck supporting member having a perimeter relatively different in size from a perimeter of a balloon neck supporting valve head of a toy balloon valve, said balloon neck supporting member including a first end and a second end;

(b) a cavity defined by said continuous wall and located between said first end and said second end for supporting a valve head of the toy balloon valve;

(c) a first opening into said cavity through said first end for receiving a stem of said toy balloon valve into said cavity; and

(d) a second opening through said second end for allowing an inflation fluid to flow through said stem of said toy balloon valve into a balloon on said balloon neck supporting member without leaking.

22. The toy balloon valve adapter of Claim 21, wherein said wall is relatively short and thick for defining a plate-like balloon neck supporting member.